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Preservation Achievement Award for Moultonborough Heritage Commission

The Moultonborough Heritage Commission has received a Preservation Achievement Award for exemplary work in education and planning. On May 10th at its annual announcement ceremony in Concord, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance presented ten awards for outstanding achievement in preservation. The awards recognize individuals, organizations and corporations for work or projects in the categories of restoration and stewardship, rehabilitation and adaptive use, compatible new construction and advocacy. Cristina Ashjian, chair of the Moultonborough Heritage Commission, accepted the Elizabeth Durfee Hengen Award for planning, education, and advocacy, which will be on public display at Moultonborough's Town Hall.

"We welcome this opportunity to recognize outstanding projects and people, offer thanks and inspire others," said the Preservation Alliance's executive director Jennifer Goodman. The award announcement noted how the Moultonborough Heritage Commission has "set a new standard for community education and advocacy," with its Community Landmarks lecture series and last summer's Community Landmarks Tour. In addition to public education, the Commission, only established in 2009, has focused on formal recognition of significant town properties, successfully nominating both the Long Island Inn and Kona Mansion Inn to the State Register of Historic Places in 2010.

The award presentation emphasized how "creating a heritage commission is one of the first steps a community can take to help promote awareness of its historical resources and help guide local decision-making so that historical and cultural resources – those defining characteristics of our New Hampshire cities and towns – are considered in the process of managing development and change." This year, the Moultonborough Heritage Commission will continue its Community Landmarks Series, with a focus on agricultural heritage and barn preservation. In addition, the Commission will continue to advance preservation goals identified in Moultonborough's Master Plan update of 2008.

The Moultonborough Heritage Commission received one of three educational initiative awards; six construction projects were also recognized. State Architectural Historian James L. Garvin was also honored with a leadership award for his outstanding contributions to the preservation of landmark structures, artifacts and communities in New Hampshire. "These awards showcase how investment in community landmarks not only revives irreplaceable landmarks, but also brings people together, supports local jobs, and increases visibility for important civic issues," said Preservation Alliance board member and awards committee chair Paula Cabot. The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is the statewide membership organization dedicated to preserving historic buildings, communities and landscapes through leadership, education and advocacy.